made by the committee for preventing the recurrence of similar accidents have been accepted and embodied by the Government in the revised rules issued under the Public Canals and Public Ferries Regulation.

45. Railway. The field work in connection with the survey of the proposed extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil has been completed by Mr. Marini, who is now engaged in surveying an extension of the line into the town of Trivandrum in advance of its extension to Nagercoil. This immediate extension has been decided upon in the interests of the citizens of Trivandrum. Mr. Marini will next take up the sanctioned survey of the projected railway line from some convenient point between Kottarakara and Quilon to Cochin.

46. It is gratifying to note that the working of the railway from Shencottah to Trivandrum, which involved a loss of Rs. 1,56,720 in 1097 and of Rs. 1,01,095 in 1098, gave a net surplus of Rs. 40,191 in 1099 as the result of the reduction in working expenses and interest charges.

47. Anchal. The number of private covers posted in Anchal Offices has risen from 1,12,77,564 in 1096 to 1,35,05,274 in 1099, the increase during the past triennium being as high as 20 per cent. The receipts of the Anchal Department have risen from Rs. 2,52,778 in 1095 to Rs. 2,99,799 in 1099. The expenditure in the latter year, including the cost of stationery, stamps, and printing, which is being debited to the department since 1097, stood at Rs. 3,26,439, thus resulting in a deficit of Rs. 26,640. A runners' service was opened between Kozhancheri and Tiruvalla in 1099. Sanction has just been accorded to the revival of the motor service between Kottayam and Parur. The village delivery system was introduced in the Anchal Divisions of Padmanabhapuram, Quilon, Mavelikara and Kottayam in 1099.

48. Public Health. The rules for the compulsory registration of vital statistics in rural areas, passed under Regulation VII of 1096, have been brought into force from the beginning of the current year, and it is hoped that a reasonable degree of accuracy in the statistics relating to rural births and deaths will be the result. Basing our comparisons on the compulsory—and hence tolerably reliable—vital statistics for municipal areas, it is seen that, while the birth and death rates have remained stationary at about 31 and 17 per mille respectively, the rate of infantile mortality has come down from 118·7 per mille in 1097, the first year in which the latest census figures of population became available for statistical purposes, to 98·1 per mille in 1099. While vital statistics thus reveal a satisfactory state of public health, it is a matter for regret that there should have been over three hundred deaths from small-pox in 1098 and over four hundred deaths from small-pox and cholera together in 1099. The inference is that the necessary preventive and curative measures are not applied with sufficient rigour and this is a matter which should engage the serious attention of the Sanitary Commissioner.

49. Baby Week. The Baby Week movement, inaugurated by Her Excellency Lady Reading in British India, was adopted in Travancore also in 1099; and with the help of a subsidy from the Government and subscriptions from the public, the Week was celebrated in Trivandrum, Nagercoil, Kottayam and Quilon. These celebrations served to focus attention on the need for health visitors meeting people in their own homes and imparting instruction in the proper care of expectant mothers and of infants. An immediate and gratifying outcome of these celebrations is the entertainment, by the Quilon Municipal Council, of an experienced Sister as a health visitor for the town and the formation of a Health and Child Welfare Association in Alleppey, subsidised by the local Municipal Council. This year's celebrations of the Week were more elaborate and impressive than last year's and were held in two more centres, *viz.*, Tiruvalla and Mavelikara; and it is hoped that they will be instrumental in bringing into existence a variety of activities for the promotion of health and child welfare.

50. Medical Department. On the departure of Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan on leave preparatory to retirement in the early part of the current year, Mrs. M. Poonen Lukose, Surgeon of the Women and Children's Hospital, was appointed to be in

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